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Its note was not heard, but in wetter seasons the loud song of this thrush delights the bird lover. I have never known this warbler to breed in our locality.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT

Icteria virens

I have seen the chat but once in all my observations. Other observers in our locality seem to have been more fortunate, and have reported this species at least occasionally. As I have been a very regular and fairly careful observer of bird life for many years, I can not understand why I have missed this warbler so frequently.

REDSTART

Setophaga ruticilla

This beautiful warbler is very plentiful at Notre Dame, but does not breed here. Arriving about the middle of May, it sometimes tarries until early in June. Usually it is a constant singer, but in 1917 the song was not heard frequently. In the month of August I have found Redstart families in the deep woods, which would seem to indicate that these warblers may begin to migrate early.

JOHN EATTON LE CONTE

BY JOHN HENDLEY BARNHART

The LeConte family has long maintained a conspicuous place in the history of American science. Guillaume LeConte, born at Rouen, France, March 6, 1659, was one of the many Huguenots who fled to America during the years immediately following the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, in 1685. He settled at New Rochelle, New York; afterward went to the island of Martinique, where he married; and spent his last years in New York, where he died in 1710. Guillaume's second son, Dr. Pierre LeConte, married Valeria Eatton, and their second son, Dr. John Eatton LeConte (1739-1822), was the ancestor of all the later scientists who have contributed to the fame of the name LeConte in this country.

Dr. John Eatton LeConte spent his summers in New York or New Jersey, and his winters on his plantation, "Woodmanston," in the southern part of Liberty County, Georgia. He married Jane Sloane, of New York, and they had three sons, two of whom

became well known to their contemporaries as enthusiastic botanists. The elder son, Louis LeConte (1782-1838), who spent most of his life on the Georgia plantation, published nothing, and we are aware of his botanical attainments only through the testimony of his friends. He was the father of Professors John LeConte (1818-1891) and Joseph LeConte (1823-1901) of the University of California, and grandfather of Joseph Nisbet LeConte, now a professor in the same institution. The younger son, Major John Eatton LeConte (1784-1860), the botanist, was the father of Professor John Lawrence LeConte (1825-1883), the distinguished entomologist, and grandfather of Dr. Robert Grier LeConte, of Philadelphia.

John Eatton LeConte, Jr., was born near Shrewsbury, New Jersey, February 22, 1784. He attended Columbia College, receiving the degree of A. B. in 1803, although it is said that the condition of his health prevented him from actually finishing his studies. His interest in the natural sciences, geology, zoology, and especially botany, began, like that of his brother Louis, in early youth. His first botanical paper was published in 1811, and he was one of the group of young men who organized the Lyceum of Natural History of New York in 1817. He entered the United States army as an assistant topographical engineer, with the rank of Captain, in April, 1818; in 1828 he was brevetted Major for ten years' faithful service in one grade. Ill health compelled him to resign his commission in 1831, and he did not fully recover for many years.

During his service in the army he married Mary A. H. Lawrence, of New York City, who died not many weeks after the birth of their son, and this event cast a permanent shadow over his life. It is said that every year, unless prevented by illness, he made a pilgrimage alone to the grave of his wife, in Virginia. "No one was ever asked to go with him; not her only living child, his son." After his withdrawal from military service he lived the quiet life of a retired army officer and semi-invalid for many years, devoting much time to his favorite scientific pursuits; his later interests became centered particularly upon entomology, in which his son afterward became so proficient. His water-color work included not only the earlier plant-portraits now reproduced, but thousands of drawings of insects, which were preserved and utilized by his son.

He made his home in New York City until 1852. Following

the example and influenced by the persuasion of his friend (and relative, it is said) James Roosevelt Bayley, afterward Bishop of Newark and Archbishop of Baltimore, he transferred his allegiance from the Protestant Episcopal Church to the Roman Catholic Church, July 4, 1846. The last years of his life were spent in Philadelphia, whither he removed with his son early in the year 1852. His entire herbarium of North American plants (much depleted, it is believed, by the generosity with which he had accomodated his importunate friends) was presented to the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia in April of that year; and after his death, November 21, 1860, his fresh-water mollusca were added to the collections of the Academy.

The best account of LeConte's life from a botanical standpoint is probably that of Asa Gray in the *Botanical Gazette* (8:197-199. 1883); this has been reprinted; in an abbreviated form and with characteristic inaccuracy, in Harshberger's "*Botanists of Philadelphia*" (149-151. 1899). Some very interesting reminiscences of LeConte were secured from a former member of his household and published by Greene in *Pittonia* (1:303-311. 1889). According to Harshberger, there is a painting of Major LeConte in Philadelphia, in the library of the American Philosophical Society.

The published scientific papers of LeConte were very few, in view of the extent of his observations and studies; of the entire number, only about one third relate to botany. These, as far as known to me, are:

1. *Catalogus plantarum quas sponte crescentes in insula noveboraco, observavit.* Am. Med. & Phil. Reg. 2:134-142. O. 1811.
2. *Monographie des espèces du genre Paspalum, existantes dans les États Unis d'Amérique.* Jour. de Phys. 91:283-286. O. 1820.
3. *Observations on the North American species of the genus Utricularia.* Ann. Lyc. Nat. Hist. N. Y. 1:72-79. pl. 6. [?Mr] 1824.
4. *Observations on the North American species of the genus Gratiola.* Ann. Lyc. Nat. Hist. N. Y. 1:103-108. [?Je] 1824.
5. *Observations on the North American species of the genus Ruellia.* Ann. Lyc. Nat. Hist. N. Y. 1:140-142. [?S] 1824.

6. On the North American plants of the genus *Tillandsia*, with descriptions of three new species. *Ann. Lyc. Nat. Hist. N. Y.* 2:129-132. D 1826.
7. Observations on the North American species of the genus *Viola*. *Ann. Lyc. Nat. Hist. N. Y.* 2:135-153. D 1826.
8. Observations on the United States species of the genus *Pancratium*. *Ann. Lyc. Nat. Hist. N. Y.* 3:142. F 1830; 143-147. *pl.* 4. 1835.
- There was an interval of five years between the publication of the first and second pages of this paper.
9. An enumeration of the vines of North America. *Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila.* 6:269-274. Mr 1853.
10. Description of a new species of the pacane nut. *Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila.* 6:402. D 1853.
11. [Remarks on *Magnolia pyramidata* of Bartram.] *Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila.* 7:174, 175. Ap 1855.
12. Observations on the species of *Nicotiana*. *Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila.* 1859:93-98. [Ap] 1859.

Nos. 3, 4, 5, and 7 are the ones now reprinted.

The only papers liable to be credited in error to Major LeConte are several on the exudation of ice from the stems of plants, and the resistance of plants to freezing temperatures, published 1850-52; these were by his nephew, Dr. John LeConte, the physicist (1818-1891).

White's "Statistics of the state of Georgia," published in 1849, has a separately paged appendix entitled "Catalogue of the fauna and flora of the state of Georgia." Of the various lists, most of which are distinctly credited to various authors, the last, occupying pages 43-47, is called: Catalogue of the flora in Georgia, arranged according to the Linnaean and natural system. This list is anonymous, but has been attributed to "LeConte." In the preface to the volume, White acknowledges his indebtedness to "Major LeConte, of New York" and to "Dr. LeConte, of Athens" (his nephew); the latter contributed the list of birds to the appendix, and the former is presumably the "John LeConte" who prepared the list of coleopterous insects (a group in which we know he was at that time particularly interested). The plant list, however, seems to have been little more than a compilation of names from Elliott's "Sketch" and contains abundant internal evidence that it was not the work of Major LeConte.